



OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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Linda McCulloch
Superintendent

May 2, 2005

To: OPI MASS Representatives

From: Madalyn Quinlan, Chief of Staff

Subject: Summary of OPI Activities

Here is a summary of the current activities at the Office of Public Instruction for May. This summary can also be found at www.opi.mt.gov/MASSUpdates/.

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT

Highlights of State Superintendent Linda McCulloch's Activities for April:

- Participated in job shadowing for two Montana Leadership participants from Helena and Havre
- Spoke to the MEA-MFT Representative Assembly
- Gave welcoming speech to the Montana Indian Education Association Conference
- Addressed students and teachers attending the Montana Heritage Project Youth Festival
- Addressed National Conference on Indian Education
- Addressed via video the 75th Montana State FFA Convention at MSU
- Participated in Governor Schweitzer's signing of SB152, the bill defining quality schools
- Testified before the state Legislature on several education-related bills
- Met with the Governor and Legislative leaders to discuss education issues before the legislature
- Conducted the monthly cabinet meeting
- Interviewed on TV, radio, and newspaper including Mark Daniels of KSEN Radio in Shelby and Bob Gilbert of CNN Bresnan Cable Television and Ntional Public Radio regarding Indian Education for All
- Met with representatives of the United States Secret Service regarding the Safe Schools Initiatives
- Attended the Council of Chief State School Officers Legislative Conference (CCSS0)
- Participated in the monthly Land Board meeting and weekly Ed Forum meetings,
- Attended the Teacher of the Year ceremony at the White House with Montana Teacher of the Year Mary Wren, Great Falls
- Met with congressional delegation staff to discuss No Child Left Behind and the education budget
- Conducted a public meeting on proposed amendments to the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) work plan
- Attended the Montana Library Commission quarterly meeting at the Montana Library Association Annual Conference
- Spoke to the Montana Traffic Education Conference in Billings
- Attended the annual Milken National Education Conference in Washington, DC honoring Milken Award winners Kathy Derby, Anderson Schoolin Bozeman, and Vicky Panasuk, Sidney

"It is the mission of the Office of Public Instruction to improve teaching and learning through communication, collaboration, advocacy, and accountability to those we serve."

- Hosted “Lunch with Linda” for the staff

Legislative Overview

At the end of this document is a brief description of key legislation and appropriations related to school funding. The Office of Public Instruction, along with its education partners, is preparing a *Summary of Legislation Related to K-12 Education* for the 2005 legislative session. The publication will be available in mid-June. OPI’s Legislative webpage <http://www.opi.mt.gov/superintendent/LegUpdates05.html> will be updated with new information concerning interim committee education activities.

State Superintendent Linda McCulloch recognizes Teacher Appreciation Week

In honor of America’s observance of Teacher Appreciation Week, May 2-6, State Superintendent Linda McCulloch thanks Montana’s nearly 12,000 certified educators for their energy, enthusiasm and dedication to public education and Montana’s children.

“There is no other profession that touches so many people in such a special and lasting way as teaching does,” said Superintendent McCulloch. “There are few professions that touch the human soul and are as rewarding as being a teacher.”

Since 1985, the first week in May has been earmarked to honor teachers and recognize the lasting contributions they make to our lives. Teachers continue to influence students long after school days are only memories. Teachers open children’s minds to new ideas, knowledge and dreams. Teachers keep American democracy alive by laying the foundation for good citizenship. Teachers fill many roles, as listeners, explorers, motivators and mentors.

Superintendent McCulloch Seeks Talent Pool Nominations

State Superintendent Linda McCulloch is again seeking recommendations of outstanding educators for the OPI “Talent Pool”. The Talent Pool is a list of K-12 Montana educators who have been recommended to the Office of Public Instruction to be outstanding teachers, who have demonstrated exceptional instructional ability, have an inspiring presence, and exhibit professional leadership. The educators on the list may be considered for membership by OPI on advisory boards and task forces, as well as candidates for special recognition programs.

Nominations must be confidential and the person being nominated must not know they are being considered. This year the talent pool focuses on recommendations for Middle and High School educators. Recommendations should be made using the 2005 Talent Pool Nomination Form <http://www.opi.mt.gov/superintendent/talentpool.html> which was enhanced to allow for on-line entry. The deadline for recommendations is May 20, 2005.

OPI contacts are Jan Lombardi, Superintendent’s Office, Office of Public Instruction, PO Box 202501, Helena, MT 59620-2501 or 406-444-1641 or jlombardi@mt.gov or Sue Tinsley at 444-5643 or stinsley@mt.gov.

May Board of Public Education Meeting Topics

The Board of Public Education will hold its next regular meeting May 12-13, 2005, at the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind, Great Falls, Montana. Tentative agenda items from the Office of Public Instruction include: the Superintendent’s Report, a No Child Left Behind Update, MACIE and Accreditation reports. Agenda action items include Accreditation issues, the ’06 State Distribution Schedule, and a Healthy Schools Network recommendation on tobacco use. Contacts are Board of Public Education Executive Secretary **Steve Meloy** (406) 444-0300 or Deputy Superintendent **Bud Williams** (406) 444-7325.

New Rule for Student Discipline Records

The Board of Public Education has adopted a new rule regarding student discipline records and amended the current rule regarding student records effective April 15, 2005. The change involves removing disciplinary records as a requirement of the permanent file and establishing a new rule which provides for the retention and transfer of student disciplinary records. These changes bring the state into compliance with the requirements of NCLB. It is important to remember that the rules state the minimum records that must be maintained by school districts. School District policy may provide for retention/transfer of additional records. The new/amended rules are ARM 10.55.909 and ARM 10.55.910. The text of the amendments can be found in the BPE proposed rule notice on the Legal Division webpage. If you have any questions please contact Beverly Marlow, OPI Paralegal at 444-3172 or bemarlow@mt.gov.

Assessment

The April 2005 issue of JUMP, the OPI online assessment newsletter, is online at <http://www.opi.mt.gov/assessment/JUMP.html>. OPI Contact: Judy Snow at 444-3656 or jsnow@mt.gov

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SERVICES

Electronic 2005-06 ESEA Consolidated Application

The ESEA Annual Consolidated Application for federal programs Title I, Part A; Title II, Part A; Title II, Part D; Title IV, Part A; Title V, Part A; Title VI, Part B, Subpart I; Title VI, Part B, Subpart 2 is now available. A paper copy of your application packet will not be mailed this year. Completed applications must be submitted electronically to the OPI by May 30, 2005. The project period extends from July 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006.

Your district copy includes data on your preliminary district allocation amounts and other pre-filled district information. Review all pre-filled data and complete all appropriate and required fields for each ESEA program where you have an allocation and are the prime applicant for these funds. You will correct or update those fields that contain inaccurate information.

PRELIMINARY ALLOCATIONS

Preliminary allocations are posted on the OPI Web page <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/FederalPrograms/Index.html>. There are two separate allocation tables located on the Web page. One table contains the Preliminary Allocations for School Year 2005-06. Another table contains the Final Allocation Bulletin for School Year 2004-05.

CONSOLIDATED APPLICATION TRAINING VIDEOS

The 2005-06 ESEA Annual Consolidated Application Training Videos are available on the above Web page. The training videos are in chapters according to the type of instruction or title program. You will need to view the video for training to complete and submit this year's electronic application.

CONSOLIDATED APPLICATION RESOURCES

The following forms and information needed to administer these federal programs may be downloaded from the OPI Web site at <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/FederalPrograms/Index.html>:

Cash Advance Request for state and Federal Grant Programs,
Annual Budget and Program Modification Request for State and Federal Programs,
Fiscal Closeout Report for State and Federal Grant Programs, and

Montana Office of Public Instruction State and Federal Grants Handbook, revised June 2002.

ELECTRONIC APPLICATION PROCESS

We appreciate your patience as we continue the electronic application process again this year. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we may assist you in any way. For assistance in completing the application, please call the OPI Federal Consolidated Application HELP LINE (406) 444-9444 or call (888) 231-9393 toll free and ask for extension 9444, or click the box, GET ANSWERS on the OPI Federal Programs Web page.

OPI Contacts: Nancy Coopersmith at (406) 444-5541 or ncoopersmith@mt.gov or Carol Gneckow at cgneckow@mt.gov.

Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Winners for 2005-06

The Office of Public Instruction is proud to announce that there have been 22 exemplary winners selected from a field of over 100 Montana high school applicants as Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship winners for the school year 2005-06! Based upon the availability of federal funds Montana receives from the U.S. Department of Education, the individual award for 2005-06 is \$1,350.

When each scholarship winner has completed their freshman year of college and have met the college's eligibility requirements, the Byrd Scholar may renew the scholarship for up to three more years, undergraduate study only.

The 2005-06 winners are: Ashley Bailey, Colstrip High School; Rebecca Bartram, Great Falls High School; Ben Fareed-Youssef, Sidney High School; Peter Betcher, Choteau High School; Demetra Davis, Butte High School; Bailey Dierman, Lincoln County High School; Jeremy Dufner, Dawson County High School; Clare Edgerton, West Yellowstone High School; Steven Gaskill, Powder River County District High School; Wesley Hilton, Flathead High School; Nicholas Homer, Big Sky High School; Phillip MacCart, Harlowton High School; Max Masnick, Corvallis High School; Patrick Menge, Saco High School; Katie Michel, Scobey High School; Mallory Nelson, Fergus High School; Dorothy Sizemore, Whitehall High School; Rebecca Snape, Rapelje High School; Cherry Tomscheck, North Toole County High School; Samuel Urlacher, Skyview High School; Michael Welch, Havre High School; Daniel Woldtvedt, Cut Bank High School.

We join their families, friends and teachers in congratulating all 22 of these outstanding high school students on this achievement! OPI Contact: Carol Gneckow, Program Specialist, (406) 444-2417 or e-mail cgneckow@state.mt.us

SCHOOL BUDGETING AND ACCOUNTING

FY2005-06 Post Legislative Preliminary Budget Data Sheets and Other Budgeting Tools Available

The School Finance Division has released FY06 Post-Legislative Preliminary Budget Data Sheets to assist schools in budgeting for the 2005-06 school year. The data sheets may be accessed at the following link: <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/schoolfinance/excel.html>. Other budgeting tools are available: FY2005-06 General Fund Budget and Voting Limits chart (with graphs) may be accessed at:

http://www.metnet.state.mt.us/schoolfinance/School_Finance/0001C691-80000007/ and Excel

spreadsheets may be accessed at <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/schoolfinance/>. OPI Contact: Nica Carte, (406) 444-4401 or ncarte@mt.gov.

2nd Semester Transportation Claims due in May

TR-5 (Individual Transportation Claim) and TR-6 (Bus Route Transportation Claim) forms for second semester reimbursement were posted on OPI's website in mid-April. Completed claim forms are due to the county superintendent by May 10. The County Superintendent must send the completed forms to OPI by May 24. Timely claims will be paid in mid-June. According to administrative rules, OPI must withhold the 2nd semester payment until September for claims received after May 24. OPI Contact: Maxine Mougeot, (406) 444-3096 or mmougeot@mt.gov.

Changes to Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Requirements

OPI received notification of changes to the Commercial Driver's License (CDL) requirements that will impact school bus drivers, including regular route and activity drivers, mechanics, contracted personnel, sales people and others that would drive an empty school bus for maintenance or other purposes. Currently, drivers must have a minimum intra-state CDL rated for the weight of the vehicle driven and a "P" (passenger) endorsement. Effective September 30, 2005 drivers must obtain an "S" (school bus) endorsement if operating a yellow route bus for regular or activities transportation. Drivers must pass a 20-question written test and a skills test in a school bus of the same vehicle group the driver will operate. For more details about the "S" endorsement, including testing opportunities, access this link: <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/PupilTransport/index.html>. OPI contact: Maxine Mougeot, (406) 444-3096 or mmougeot@mt.gov.

Montana Association for Pupil Transportation (MAPT) Conference

The annual MAPT conference will be held June 22, 23 and 24 in Hamilton. All Montana school bus drivers are encouraged to participate in this extraordinary driver training opportunity. Conference registration forms and motel information can be found at <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/PupilTransport/index.html> (click on "Training"). Registration forms should be sent to Betty Kunkle, Cascade County Superintendent (406) 454-6776 or email schools@co.cascade.mt.us.

OPI Distributes Indirect Cost Rate Applications for FY06 Grant Projects

Applications for indirect cost rates for FY2005-06 are now posted on the OPI website at <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/schoolfinance/acct.html>. Indirect cost recoveries are OPTIONAL; but you must have a rate approved by OPI if you intend to claim indirect cost recoveries from grants administered by OPI or received directly from a federal agency or another state agency. Application forms are due to OPI by May 31, 2005. OPI Contact: Jim Oberembt, (406) 444-1257 or joberembt@mt.gov.

Have You Requested Grant Cash?

Please review all district and cooperative grant projects to make sure your district submitted a cash request for funds. Delaying use of grant funding can result in losses if funds are not obligated by the deadlines. OPI federal accountants are available for questions: Jurenne Fuchs, (406) 444-2560, jfuchs@mt.gov; Pat Dawes, (406) 444-3408, pdawes@mt.gov; Madilon Beatty, (406) 444-4403, mbeatty@mt.gov.

Time to Check Special Education Spending to Avoid "Reversion"

Now is a great time to ensure your district will spend the required amount for special education to avoid "reversion". Reversion means refunding state special education allowable cost funding to the state if the district failed to spend the state funding plus the required \$1 for \$3 match.

Verify the match for related services block grant was remitted to the cooperative consistent with the requirements of 20-9-321 MCA. If you need additional special education expenditures to avoid reversion, consider sending an additional contribution to the cooperative to support the cooperative's expenses. Payments to a special education cooperative are counted toward the district's "spending to avoid reversion". For more information on special education funding and reversion, go to this link: <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/SchoolFinance/SpecEd.html>.

Applications for Anticipated ANB Increases

Districts may submit applications for an increase in ANB for FY2005-06 through June 1. Districts may be eligible for an increase if the anticipated enrollments exceed average current year enrollment counts by more than 6%. OPI must review actual enrollment in FY2005-06 to verify approved increases actually materialized. OPI contact: Tal Redpath (406) 444-3024 or fredpath@mt.gov.

MASBO Summer Conference

The Montana Association of School Business Officials (MASBO) will hold its annual summer conference in Butte on June 13, 14 and 15, 2005. **To register, call Lynda Brannon at (406) 442-5599 or email her at masbo@in-tch.com.**

School Budgeting and Accounting Workshops

The 2005 School Budgeting & Accounting Workshops are scheduled as follows:

Wednesday, July 6	Havre
Thursday, July 7	Great Falls
Tuesday, July 12	Sidney
Wednesday, July 13	Miles City
Thursday, July 14	Billings
Tuesday, July 19	Kalispell
Wednesday, July 20	Missoula
Thursday, July 21	Butte

Workshops are presented by School Finance Division staff, are free of charge, and are open to anyone interested in school budgeting and accounting. Watch your email for more information and registration materials in early May. OPI Contact: Nica Carte, (406) 444-4401 or ncarte@mt.gov.

Free MAEFAIRS Training

The School Finance Division will offer MAEFAIRS training on Wednesday, July 27, in Helena. This training is designed for school district personnel responsible for completing the Trustees Financial Summary (TFS) and Budget reports. OPI Contact: Nica Carte, (406) 444-4401 or ncarte@mt.gov.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES DIVISION

OPI Calendar of Events – eCalendar

If you haven't seen the new Calendar of Events on the OPI web page, take the time to check it out now. Use this link <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/calendar> or go to the OPI web page and select the Calendar tab from the row of tabs near the top of the page. This calendar is meant to be a single point of contact for all deadlines, trainings, workshops and other events that originate from or are sponsored by the OPI. In addition, the calendar includes other events of interest to the education community and has taken the place of the previous EdVents Calendar. The calendar is searchable by date, name of event, contact person, location and key words. A short

training tutorial can be viewed by clicking the link at the bottom of the calendar page, or use this link to view it right now. http://www.opi.state.mt.us/calendar/Calendar_Tutorial.mov. OPI Contact: Internet Services Bureau at 444-1626.

ACCREDITATION DIVISION

New Accreditation Web Page

New accreditation web page was created Title II Part A State Level Activities.

<http://www.opi.state.mt.us/TitleIIPartA/TitleIIPartAStateL.html> This webpage outlines two projects now underway. One deals with a new tool – surveys of enacted curriculum – which allows for a valid and reliable assessment of (1) alignment within our continuous improvement model now in all schools and districts and (2) the effectiveness of the professional development activities and initiatives. A second project is the Montana Professional Development Partnership project which is looking at supporting potential models for OPI's ongoing vision to develop a regionalized delivery model for high quality professional development. There is also a link to a new grant opportunity. OPI Contact: Al McMilin at (406)444-4436 or amcmilin@mt.gov.

First Year Teacher Assessment Survey Now Available

The New Teacher Assessment Survey will be posted on the OPI Web site May 2 through June 3, 2005. During this time, the Office of Public Instruction requests that all Montana-prepared first year teachers and their supervising administrators complete the Web-based survey to assess professional preparation, readiness, and future development needs of our first year teachers.

There are two direct links to the survey. One link is located on the OPI home page under News Headlines <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/Supt/NewsStories/05AD66C48D.ncik>; the other link can be found by visiting the accreditation Five Year Comprehensive Education Plan Web page <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/5YearPlan/Index.html>. An Official E-mail was sent to schools on May 2nd with Information regarding User ID and Password to complete the surveys.

All information provided is confidential, and any survey results shared by the OPI with institutions of higher education will not include any information identifying teachers or geographic locations. The Office of Public Instruction would like to thank you for your support. OPI contact: Margaret Bowles, (406) 444-0716, mbowles@mt.gov.

Montana Professional Development Partnership (MPDP) Project

The Office of Public Instruction (OPI) has recently initiated the Montana Professional Development Partnership Project. This project is funded through Title II Part A State Level Activities. The purpose of the project is to improve student achievement in Montana schools by providing state support and funding for high-quality professional development in the core academic areas of math, reading, language arts, science and social studies that focuses on (1) increasing the subject-matter knowledge of teachers; (2) increasing teacher understanding and use of effective, research-based instructional strategies; and (3) increasing teacher competency in the use of educational technology. In addition, this program seeks to encourage and support the development of “regionalized” delivery models that will address the challenges and limitations that are presented by the geographic size and rural nature of Montana to the effective and efficient delivery of these high-quality professional development opportunities.

The OPI is announcing a competitive grant opportunity to further the goals of the MPDP Project. A copy of the grant application can be found at the new OPI Web page for Title II, Part A State Level Activities: www.opi.state.mt.us/titleIIPartA/TitleIIPartAStateL.html. OPI Contact: Al McMilin at (406)444-4436 or amcmilin@mt.gov.

Five-Year Comprehensive Education Plan (5YCEP) Effectiveness Report

The Annual Data Collection (ADC) will open from May 9, 2005, through June 17, 2005, for the spring submission of the 2005 Effectiveness Report. Schools that choose not to submit a new Effectiveness Report during the June period must submit their 2005 Effectiveness Report with the fall Annual Data Collection. Districts that choose to submit the 2005 Effectiveness Reports in October must be aware that the 2004 Effectiveness Report will be used for schools in the Small School Review Process in July of 2005. The information required for this year's Effectiveness Report can be previewed by visiting the Five-Year Comprehensive Education Plan Web page. OPI Contact: Margaret Bowles at (406) 444-0716 or mbowles@mt.gov.

Board of Public Education Sets Standards Review Schedule for 2005-2008

The Montana Board of Public Education approved the Standards Review Schedule (ARM 10.54.2503) to begin with the review of the K-12 Science Content and Performance Standards Summer 2005.

In 2008, the state Science Criterion-Referenced Test (CRT) will be administered to all Montana students in grades 4, 8, and 10. Because Montana is currently working with Measured Progress to prepare the Montana CRT in Science, the timing is right for the 2005 review and revision of the K-12 Science Content and Performance Standards. The review will ensure that the Science CRT is aligned to the most up-to-date Montana standards. In addition, the review process will generate not only the Montana K-12 Content and Performance Standards for Science, but also produce model K-12 grade-level expectations for science.

The review schedule is printed below.

K-12 Standards Review Schedule 2005-2008		
Cycle I	Science	July 2005
Cycle II	Mathematics Communication Arts	July 2006
Cycle III	Social Studies Health Enhancement Arts Technology	July 2007
Cycle IV	School Counseling Library Media Career and Technology Education Workplace Competencies World Languages	July 2008

How can you be involved?

- Nominate yourself or a colleague to serve on the standards review team
- Provide feedback on the implementation of the current Science Standards
- Volunteer to serve as a reader of the draft revisions of the Science Standards
- Provide comments on the overall process

OPI Contact: Linda Vrooman Peterson, (406) 444-5726 or by e-mail at lvpeterson@mt.gov.

MASCD Summer Institute 2005

Mark your calendars for the MASCD Summer Institute 2005 – *Good to Great: Transforming Teaching and Learning* – Great Northern Hotel Convention Center, Helena Montana – June 13-16, 2005. Be sure to send a team of teachers and administrators from your school district.

June 13, 2005 - Institute Pre-Conference – 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Dr. Pam Robbins will focus attention on *The Leader's Role in Fostering Quality Teaching and Student Learning*. This Institute Pre-Conference is co-sponsored by MASCD and SAM.

June 14, 2005 – Summer Institute Day One – 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Dr. Pam Robbins – *Primal Leadership and Professional Learning Communities: Practices that Make a Difference*. Pam will focus on the role of professional learning communities in schools and the practices that make definite differences in student learning.

June 15-16, Summer Institute Days Two and Three – 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Lisa Carter *Transforming Learning through Five Big Ideas*. Lisa's new presentation and book feature five big ideas: Institutionalizing alignment practices, creating an effective learning environment, creating quality instruction in the classroom, redesigning and aligning time for learning, and learning to adjust based on data. Lisa Carter believes that school transformation means changing the way schools look, function and operate. It's all about people and ideas.

Register online at <http://montana.ascd.org>. For more information contact Keith Meyer, MASCD President, Helena Public Schools at (406) 342-2004 or kmeyer@helena.k12.mt.us; Jan Thomson, MASCD Executive Director, at (406) 453-4262 or jannyt@bresnan.net or OPI Contact: Linda Vrooman Peterson at (406) 444-5726 or lvpeterson@mt.gov.

All Aboard for Reading! Summer Family Reading Program

Superintendent Linda McCulloch announces the 2005 statewide summer family reading program, All Aboard for Reading! The 2005 Family Reading Program is a collaborative effort of the Office of Public Instruction, Montana State Reading Council and the Montana Elks Association.

All Aboard for Reading! monthly reading calendars are day-by-day fun reading, writing and thinking activities for students, their family and friends. Students completing the activities will receive a Family Reading Certificate and a surprise. All Aboard for Reading! materials were mailed to librarians at all K-8 schools and to county superintendents. Materials are designed to be copied for students to take home and share with family members. The summer family reading program is also available at <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/pdf/AmReads/2005SummerReadAll.pdf> OPI Contact: June Atkins, 444-3664 or jatkins@mt.gov.

Montana State Reading Conference

The Montana State Reading Conference, "Traveling the Track to Literacy," will be held October 20-21, 2005 at the Billings Holiday Inn Grand Montana. Among the keynote speakers are Dr. Kathie Nunley, Layered Curriculum/Brain Biology; Dr. Tim Shanahan, Vice-President International Reading Association, *How to Improve Reading Achievement and Teaching Reading Fluency*, and authors, Gordon Korman and Judith Greenburg. OPI Contact: June Atkins, 444-3664 or jatkins@mt.gov.

Distance Learning Provider Registration

In accordance with ARM 10.55.907 Distance, Online, and Technology Delivered Learning

(1) This rule establishes requirements for distance, online, and technology delivered learning programs and/or courses that fulfill elementary or middle grades basic education programs and/or high school graduation requirements.

(5) Providers of distance, online, and technology delivered learning programs, other than Montana school districts, shall annually:

register with the Office of Public Instruction (OPI);

identify all Montana school districts to whom they are providing distance, online, and technology delivered programs and/or courses;

verify the professional qualifications, including Montana teacher licensure and endorsement if possessed, of their teachers of distance, online, and technology delivered programs and/or courses;

provide the course description including the content and delivery model for each distance, online, and technology delivered program and/or course provided to Montana schools; and demonstrate that the students they serve have ongoing contact with their teachers of distance, online, and technology delivered learning programs and/or courses.

The distance learning registration form can be found on the OPI Website at

www.opi.state.mt.us/pdf/accres/DLRegisForm.pdf It is our intent to have electronic registration available in the future. This form must be printed (copy as needed), then completed and mailed to:

Montana Office of Public Instruction

Attention Gary Warhank

PO Box 202501

Helena, MT 59620-2501

If your district is utilizing distance learning to fulfill elementary or middle grades basic education programs and/or high school graduation requirements, and the provider is not a Montana school district, please ask them to register with the Office of Public Instruction by August 1, 2005. OPI Contact: Gary Warhank, **GWarhank@mt.gov**, (406) 444-3128

Learn and Serve Montana

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) awarded the Office of Public Instruction two grants: K-12 Learn and Serve Montana Regional Demonstration Center and Learn and Serve Homeland Security/Hometown Safety. Grantees use service-learning as an approach to education that links community service to academic achievement. The goals of these projects are to foster the ethic of service and civic responsibility and to integrate service-learning into the district's curriculum aligned to the Montana Content and Performance Standards. Learn and Serve Montana Projects are located at Plentywood High School, Lockwood Elementary-Billings, Hardin School District, Lewistown Junior High School, Libby High School and Missoula Sentinel High School.

Learn and Serve Homeland Security/Hometown Safety Grant

Montana received one of the ten Learn and Serve Homeland Security grants awarded nation-wide. These grants are designed to increase students' awareness of potential dangers and preparing students, communities, and schools for any emergency. Amy Cohen, Learn and Serve Director for the CNCS, states "these grants will advance our knowledge of the most effective ways to help young people get involved in a critically important issue to our communities early in life." The University of Montana, Division of

Educational Research Services is a partner in this grant and provides training for the grantee sites.

Service-Learning Highlights

- Lewistown, using a service-learning model, addresses a wide variety of concerns in the greater Lewistown area. Students are highly involved in improving school climate and peer mediation training. They are working on building a “Peace Path” for students to work out conflicts and helping with the school safety plan.
- Hardin students are working closely with the local Community Preparedness Council and collaborating with the Crow Agency School to conduct a simulated chlorine spill in the area. The drill requires local schools to develop “Shelter-in-Place.”
- Lockwood students developed and participated in a recent Service Week project to clean up and restore the school playground.
- Plentywood is using GIS training in ways that are unique and important to the problems in their community. In a recent project, 5th grade students identified trash as a problem in their community. Students used GPS technology to collect information, analyze data, develop plans to reduce problems, and present findings to the school and community. Plentywood 8th graders have been fortunate to collaborate with the National Weather Service to become certified weather watchers. These students are a valuable resource to a community where weather-related disasters are a high risk and will help to inform their LEPC and response teams about hazards.
- Libby students are using a combination of technology and collaboration to assist the city of Libby in disaster preparedness by helping to improve their GIS database. They are also working with FEMA and the county to digitize new data, add information to the GIS database, GPS important points, and analyze risks such as flooding. Students are using another form of technology, film, to educate the town, the state and the nation about asbestosis. The documentary film, “Breath of Life” will debut in May in Missoula.

OPI Contacts: June Atkins at (406) 444-3664 or e-mail at jatkins@mt.gov or Josset Gauley at (406) 444-3538 or e-mail at jgauley@mt.gov or <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/LearnServe/index.html>.

Testing Cycle Enrollment Count

Thank you for submitting your testing cycle enrollment counts to your county superintendent and the OPI. Please remember that the IRIS -- Annual Data Collection electronic reporting system will close for enrollment data submissions on Friday, May 6, 2005. OPI Contact: Linda Atwood, latwood@mt.gov, 406 444-6712

CAREER, TECHNICAL AND ADULT EDUCATION DIVISION

FCCLA State Leadership Conference

1200 students, advisors, chaperons attended FCCLA State Leadership Conference in Billings March 17-19, 2005. The conference was opened with nationally known group R5 Productions under the direction of Mike Donahue focusing on diversity, seeing life from another's perspective and not being judgmental. FCCLA Chapters from throughout the state raised over \$3000.00 to present to the Helena Florence Crittenton Home to purchase camping gear for use by residents. Students took part in competitions with the top competitor in each STAR event advancing to the National FCCLA Leadership Conference. A new dimension to the conference

this year was the Career Track which consisted of a series of visits to several on-site locations in Billings that featured Construction, Child Care or the Food Industry. A group of FCCLA members 7th grade through 9th grade took part in a Leadership Training Seminar. Dale Kimmert, Superintendent Terry, was awarded FCCLA Outstanding Administrator for 2005. Montana FCCLA members, chaperones and advisors will be attending National FCCLA Leadership Conference in San Diego, CA. June 30- July 7, 2005 OPI Contact: Dianne O'Neill. Family & Consumer Sciences Education Specialist and State FCCLA Advisor, dioneill@mt.gov, 406-444-2059

Smaller Learning Communities Activities

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE) is administering two competitions under the Smaller Learning Communities (SLC) program. The first is a special competition that will fund a national evaluation of supplemental reading programs in freshman academies. The second will award SLC grants using new requirements and selection criteria.

Enhanced Reading Opportunities (ERO), the national research evaluation of supplemental reading programs, is being co-administered by OVAE and the Institute of Education Sciences (IES). Through the special competition, OVAE will award 10-12 SLC grants to local educational agencies applying on behalf of two or four large public high schools that are implementing freshman academies. Each school will be able to receive up to \$1,250,000 per high school to support SLC activities, plus the implementation of a supplemental reading program in each school. LEAs can apply on behalf of eligible high schools whether they are current SLC grantees, have previously received SLC funding, or have never received any funding through the SLC program.

ERO will test the effectiveness of two supplemental literacy interventions targeted to striving ninth-grade readers enrolled in freshman academies - those with reading comprehension skills that are two to four years below grade level. The interventions will include direct classroom instruction, reading materials that are likely to be of interest to adolescents, ongoing student assessments, and professional development for teachers.

A panel of literacy experts from across the country selected the two promising supplemental literacy programs that will be evaluated: Reading Apprenticeship for Academic Literacy (<<http://www.wested.org/cs/we/view/docs/759?x-t=multi.view>>), developed and supported by WestEd in San Francisco and the Strategic Instruction Model (<<http://www.ku-crl.org/iei/sim/index.html>>) developed and supported by the Center for Research on Learning at the University of Kansas.

The second SLC competition will award grants to LEAs applying on behalf of large public high schools to create and expand SLC structures and strategies. The purpose of the Smaller Learning Communities (SLC) program is to promote academic achievement through the creation or expansion of small, safe, and successful learning environments in large public high schools to help ensure that all students graduate with the knowledge and skills necessary to make successful transitions to college and careers. Local educational agencies (LEAs), including schools funded by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and educational service agencies, applying on behalf of large public high schools, are eligible to apply for a grant.

This year, the Department is proposing to increase the amount of time schools can undertake SLC grant-funded activities - from three years up to five years - and to increase the maximum amount of funds available per grant - from \$550,000 per high school to \$1,175,000 per high

school. LEAs can apply on behalf of eligible high schools that have not yet received an SLC grant, or that received an SLC grant in 2000 and have now completed their SLC project.

We encourage LEAs to consider how SLC can be one strategy for increasing school choice in communities. A copy of the Federal Register notice is available at:
<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20051800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2005/05-8513.htm>. More information about the SLC program is available at:
<http://www.ed.gov/programs/slcp/index.html>

Comments or questions about this grant program can be addressed to deborah.williams@ed.gov. OPI Contacts: Jody Messinger, CTE Administrator, jmessinger@mt.gov, 444-9019 and Ron Lukenbill, Division of Educational Opportunity and Equity, 444- 2080, rlukenbill@mt.gov.

SPECIAL EDUCATION DIVISION

2005 Montana Behavioral Initiative (MBI) Summer Institute

The 2005 Montana Behavioral Initiative (MBI) Summer Institute is scheduled June 20-24 on the campus of MSU in Bozeman. This year's Summer Institute is designed to motivate and provide individuals, schools and communities in nurturing competent, caring and responsible children and adolescents. The state has come together for the past 10 years to address behavioral issues and build strong academic environments in our schools and communities. This year's institute continues to promote positive intervention strategies and school climate, address bullying issues, crisis response, behavior and brain research and many more topics. The 2005 theme centers on drug and alcohol prevention and intervention. Please plan to participate for a day or the week in professional development that will provide the necessary skills to manage motivate and teach our youth and create positive learning communities. Information for MBI facilitators and team applications to become MBI sites arrived at school sites the week of April 18. To get more information and view the agenda and sessions for the summer institute, please visit the registration website at www.montana.edu/cs/mbi/ OPI Contact: Susan Bailey Anderson, MBI Coordinator, at sbanderson@mt.gov or 406-444-2046.

2005 Montana Mentor Institute - "Reflecting on Classroom Practice"

The OPI Title I-Part A Program, Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD) State Council, Title II-State-level Activities, and MEA-MFT are sponsoring the 2005 Montana Mentor Institute - "Reflecting on Classroom Practice." The institute will be held at MSU-Billings from July 28-29, 2005.

Sessions will focus on three distinct strands:

1. Starting a mentoring program at the district and/or school level (targeted at district/teacher leadership teams interested in starting mentoring programs);
2. Mentor Skills (targeted at teachers who have been selected by districts to be mentors); and
3. Advanced Mentor Skills (targeted at teachers who have been mentoring for at least one year and/or have attended the prior institutes and would like to work on additional skills).

The cost for the institute is \$50 per person, or \$40 per person for teams that include at least one administrator and one teacher. Graduate credit and renewal units will be offered. Additional information will be sent to districts in May and posted on the OPI website. OPI Contact: Nikki Sandve at 444-0299 or nsandve@mt.gov.

Special Education Exiting Data Reporting

The special education exiting data reporting computer application is now open for data entry. The due date for submittal of the data is June 30, 2005. A completed report must be submitted for each school in each school district in the state (if there are no students to report, the data entry screen has a box to check indicating no students). Authorized representatives of IDEA Part B Projects were notified of the reporting process by memo both through paper mailing and by e-mail. All pertinent documents must be accessed through the Internet. The instruction manual can be found at <http://www.opi.mt.gov/PDF/ChildCount/SpEdExitingDataRpt.pdf>. Another available resource on the Internet is an on-demand step-by-step instructional video of the electronic application that may be accessed through the IRIS tab on the OPI Web page (opi.mt.gov), click the Instructions button and scroll down to Special Education Data Collection. School districts and special education cooperatives are encouraged to report exiting data electronically. User names and passwords are required to access the Special Education Data Collection computer application. If you do not have access to the Internet, have questions about the exiting reporting process or need help with the electronic application, please call OPI Contact: Pat Reichert at 406-444-4430, or e-mail to preichert@state.mt.us.

2005 Montana's Deaf-Blind Project Summer Institute Workshop

The Office of Public Instruction's Deaf-Blind Project is excited to announce it will be offering a Summer Institute Workshop titled: **Let's Make It Functional II. Communication Skills and Communication Systems: How to Choose and How to Make Them Work for Your Student.**

This one and a half day interactive workshop will focus on the development and assessment of communication skills with individuals who are deaf-blind and emergent communicators. A systematic approach to determining "where to start" and "how to proceed" will be highlighted. The various communication options will be explored individually as well as their use within "calendar systems" and "experience books". Conceptual development as an essential component of communication will also be addressed.

This Summer Institute Workshop is designed to benefit parents, teachers, service providers, and other related personnel working with children and young adults with deaf-blindness and/or severe impairments. Professionals and paraprofessionals receiving services provided by the Montana Deaf-Blind Project are encouraged to register.

The Workshop will be held at the Red Lion Colonial Hotel 2301 Colonial Drive, Helena, MT on August 11 (8:00-5:00) and 12 (8:00-noon), 2005. The presenters will be Therese (Terry) Rafalowski Welch, Ph.D. and Carolyn Monaco. This will be a very informative and worthwhile workshop, for parents, teachers, and service providers of Montana's children and young adults with deaf-blindness to participate. It will also be an opportunity for parents, teachers, service providers and related personnel to network with one another in a casual environment.

Montana's Deaf-Blind Project will reimburse lodging, travel and per diem for up to fifty (50) participants. Due to the limited number of slots available, participation in the Summer Institute Workshop will be on a strict first-come, first-served basis. Feel free to apply if you meet one or more of the following criteria:

- 1- Are a parent, teacher, service provider, or paraeducator of a child/young adult with deaf-blindness and/or severe impairments, or
- 2- Are receiving services provided by the Montana Deaf-Blind Project, or
- 3- Are a member of the Deaf-Blind Advisory Committee, and
- 4- Completed the enclosed Request for Registration Form and mailed it to the address on the form or faxed to my attention at 444-3924 by April 29, 2005.

After April 29, 2005, you will receive a confirmation letter informing you if you are one of the

fifty (50) registered participants.

Each participant must pay for all costs and receive reimbursement after the workshop. Receipts must be provided for lodging reimbursement, and respite care. There will be no direct billing for any charges. Important Note: After you receive your confirmation letter as a registered participant to the Summer Institute Workshop, you will be responsible for arranging your own hotel accommodations by May 31, 2005. OPI Contact: Francisco Roman: froman@mt.gov 444-4426

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY AND EQUITY DIVISION

Indian Education for All Montanans Institute -- Professional Development Opportunity

The second annual Indian Education for All Montanans Institute, sponsored by the Arlee, Polson, Ronan and St. Ignatius school districts and the Office of Public Instruction, is being held June 13-15, 2005, in Missoula, Montana. The conference aims to provide classroom-level consideration and application of Indian Education for All Montanans (MCA 20-1-501). The focus of June 13 will be an analysis and application of the Essential Understandings Regarding Montana Indians (<http://www.opi.state.mt.us/pdf/indianed/essentialunderstandings.pdf>). The focus of June 14-15 will be on critical literacy. Participants will develop a working understanding of critical literacy and take a critical approach to analyzing the curriculum and culture of Montana schools. Space is limited. Please pre-register by May 25. More detailed content information and registration forms can be found at <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/pdf/indianed/Institute2005.pdf>. OPI Contact: Joan Franke, jfranke@mt.gov or 444-3694.

Indian Education for All Montanans

The Legislature appropriated funding to OPI to begin implementation of Montana's constitutional responsibility to Indian Education for All. (See Legislative summary at the end of this document.) The OPI will be hiring staff to assist with the development of Indian Education for all curriculum, materials, and teacher professional development and to provide grants for up to 50 school districts to demonstrate best practice. Information regarding the application process for the grants to school districts will be available by August 2005. If you have ideas for projects for Indian Education for All Montanans, we hope you will consider applying for funding. OPI Contact: Everall Fox, efox@mt.gov or 444-3013.

Advanced Placement Incentive Program

Please keep an eye on the AP Web page. Eligible applicants can still apply for a 2004-2005 grant for spring and summer AP and pre-AP training. The grant ends September 30. These training opportunities are, or will soon be, posted on the Web page. The 2004-2005 application form is on the Web page.

Approximately the third week of April, the 2005-2006 AP grant application will also be posted on the Web page. Use this one for activities that start next fall, at the beginning of the school year. The AP Web page link is: <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/AdvPlacement/index.html>. OPI Contact: Kathleen Mollohan; kmollohan@mt.gov or 444-4317

HEALTH ENHANCEMENT AND SAFETY DIVISION

COORDINATED SCHOOL HEALTH

Changes in School Immunization Requirements for 2005-2006

The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) has announced new immunization requirements beginning next fall with the 2005-2006 school year. The new requirements will primarily impact children entering seventh grade or kindergarten. Students

entering the seventh grade who are 11 or older will need to show proof that they have received a booster dose of tetanus/diphtheria (Td) vaccine within the past five years. Children entering kindergarten (or first grade if there is no kindergarten) must document they have received two doses of measles/mumps/rubella (MMR) vaccine since they were 12 months old. For questions, call the DPHHS Immunization Program at 444-5580 or Beth Cottingham at 444-2969.

Safe Schools Initiative and Threat Assessment

In 2002, the U.S. Secret Service completed a study of school shootings and other school attacks. The focus of the study was to develop information about the shooter's or perpetrator's pre-attack behaviors. The intent was to identify behaviors and other information that would be noticeable before a shooting or attack occurs in order to help prevent the shooting or attack. The U.S. Secret Service has published two reports that detail the study findings and lay out a process for threat assessment in schools. These documents are: *Implications for the Prevention of School Attacks in the United States* and *A Guide to Managing Threatening Situations and to Creating Safe School Climates*. These documents, along with many other safe schools resources, can be found on OPI's Safe School website at:

www.opi.state.mt.us/SafeSchools/Links.html

The direct links to each report are: for the report on preventing attacks go to www.opi.state.mt.us/PDF/SafeSchools/PreventAttacksReprt.pdf and for the guide on threat management go to www.opi.state.mt.us/PDF/SafeSchools/threatassessmentguide.pdf
OPI Safe and Drug-Free Schools Contact: Cathy Kendall (444-0829, cakendall@mt.gov)

Hazardous Waste Training for School Laboratories

In August 2004, the Hazardous Waste Program of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) sent inventory surveys to about 400 schools in Montana. We simply asked if certain chemicals were stored in the school laboratories and stockrooms. As part of the feedback from that information request, we repeatedly received comments indicating teachers and administrators wanted specific education regarding laboratory safety, the dangers posed by old chemicals, and the proper management and disposal of unwanted or outdated chemicals.

DEQ has entered into a contract with Safety and Science Education Consultants, Inc. to provide the requested training. A series of one-day workshops will be held in nine communities during the last half of September 2005. Continuing education credits will be available for workshop attendees. There will not be a fee for attending the workshops; however, attendees will be responsible for their own travel expenses. The exact times and locations have not been finalized at this time. Additional announcements will be issued as the training plans are finalized. The [MDEQ School Labs](http://www.mdeq.mt.gov/SchoolLabs) website will also be updated. For further information, you may call Bob Reinke at (406) 444-1435.

Helping Students with Diabetes Succeed: A Guide for School Personnel

Several federal agencies – the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Department of Education – have collaborated to produce a guide for schools to address the needs of students with diabetes. The guide discusses diabetes management in the school setting, provides a basic primer about diabetes, contains plans that alert school personnel to symptoms of diabetes and how to handle emergencies, and reviews the federal laws on the responsibility of schools to educate students with disabilities.

The free guide is available at <http://www.ndep.nih.gov/resources/school.htm> or may be ordered by calling 1-800-438-5383.

SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM

Recipe Contest for Montana Foodservice

The Montana Team Nutrition Program is sponsoring a recipe contest for schools attending the 2005 Montana School Nutrition Association/Office of Public Instruction summer conference! In order to promote the new Dietary Guidelines and encourage the use of commodity foods, Team Nutrition has chosen *foods made with grains, especially those that use commodity items and include a fruit or vegetable product* as the emphasis of the recipe contest. Entries must be received by May 15, 2005. Certificates of recognition and prizes will be awarded to the winners. The first place prize will be a paid registration fee for next year's conference. The recipes will be analyzed for nutritional content, printed, and provided as a resource to other schools. To enter a recipe, or for more information: Team Nutrition Program, Attn: Debi Miller, (406) 994-5641 ext. 3 or debimiller@montana.edu

Wibaux K-12 Schools Recognized

Wibaux K-12 Schools was recognized in a recent article in School Foodservice and Nutrition, the official publication of the School Nutrition Association. According to the article, "Climb Every Mountain: Kids across America 'reached their peak' during National School Lunch Week (NSLW) 2004," Wibaux "proves you don't have to be big to conduct a wonderful NSLW promotion. The population of Wibaux, Mont., is less than 1,000, and total K-12 enrollment is 169. Impressively, meal participation usually numbers 140-150 students daily! For NSLW, Judy Kahl, head cook, and Rona Zeimer, second cook, (along with other NSLW activities) decorated the cafeteria and named their menu items to correspond with the official themes. Hats off to two school nutrition professionals who scaled new heights in helping students reach each peak! Montana School Nutrition Programs would like to thank the Wibaux School foodservice for its extra effort to create a wonderful NSLW celebration for students. Great job! OPI Contact: School Nutrition Programs, (406) 444-2501

5 A Day Mini-Grants!

The Montana Nutrition and Physical Activity Program of the Department of Public Health & Human Services is partnering with Eat Right Montana Coalition to award 5 A Day mini-grants. Applicants are eligible for up to a \$500 award, and the total amount available in 2005 is \$7000. Mini-grant applications must be received (in hand) by 5 p.m. May 13, 2005. Projects must be completed by September 1, 2005. For more information or an application, visit the School Nutrition Programs web site at www.opi.state.mt.us/schoolfood/index.html or contact: Lynn Hellenga MS, RD; Nutrition Coordinator
Nutrition and Physical Activity Program
Montana State University, HHD
PO Box 173360
Bozeman, MT 59717-3360
LHellenga@Montana.edu
OPI Contact: School Nutrition Programs, (406) 444-2501

Child Nutrition Employee Appreciation Week: May 2-6, 2005

The purpose of this week is to recognize the thoughtful and dedicated school nutrition professionals who work hard throughout the school year to provide safe, appealing and nutritious meals to students. School Nutrition Programs will be sending out certificates to be presented to foodservice personnel with 20, 25, or 30 years of service to the profession. Even if your foodservice staff have not reached 20, 25, or 30 years of service, please take a moment during this week to thank them for all their hard work and dedication to serving healthful meals to your students. It will mean a lot to them! OPI Contact: School Nutrition Programs (406) 444-2501

Summer Food Service Program Application Deadline May 12

The Office of Public Instruction School Nutrition Programs will be implementing a new web-based computer program for the Summer Food Service Program. A copy of the new application will be mailed to previous year and prospective sponsors on May 3, 2005. The applications must be updated and submitted by May 12, 2005 for previous sponsors and by May 22, 2005 for new sponsors. All Summer Food Sponsors must attend a workshop provided by the School Nutrition Programs. The 2005 workshops are scheduled from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the following locations:

Geyser: May 18, 2005	Sidney: May 19, 2005	Box Elder: May 20, 2005
Hardin: May 26, 2005	Billings: May 27, 2005	Missoula: June 1, 2005
Kalispell: June 2, 2005	Helena: May 17, 2005	

OPI Contact for additional information or to register for a session: School Nutrition Programs
Sofia Janik. (406) 444-2521, sjanik@mt.gov

School Foodservice Conference: June 21-23, 2005

The 2005 Montana School Nutrition Association/OPI Conference will take place at the Holiday Inn Grand in Great Falls on June 21-23, 2005; Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday. The theme for this year is *"Let the Games Begin."* This three day conference provides high-quality professional development opportunities for directors, managers, supervisors, cooks, and general assistants. The conference also features a vendor trade show and the opportunity for managers to network with peers from around Montana. There is also a recipe contest this year that is worth a free registration for next year's conference. For more information or a registration form:

Carol Simanton
(406) 674-5432
carols@montanavision.net

Katie Bark
(406) 994-5641
kbark@mt.gov

Summer Cooking Institutes Offer Training on Preparing Healthy, Appealing School Meals

The Office of Public Instruction, School Nutrition Programs will be offering two types of cooking institutes for school food service managers, head cooks or new cooks in August of 2005. These workshops are designed to provide a hands-on training session to help school food service personnel prepare delicious and healthy school meals in a cost-effective manner. The two cooking institutes are:

1. The **Montana's School Food Service Cooking Institute** will be held at Montana State University-Bozeman on August 9-11, 2005. **The registration deadline is June 30, 2005.** Due to budget constraints, we must charge for this workshop this year. Please note there is a participant fee for this workshop this year which is \$350.00 per person. This fee covers, room and board along with all workshop expenses and resources including a recipe book. In order to conduct this workshop, we must receive 16 registrations (with payment) by June 30, 2005. Applications will be taken on a first come, first serve basis.
1. **A Native American Cooking School Workshop** will be held at Ronan Middle School on August 2, 2005. **The registration deadline is July 15, 2005.** This course is designed specifically for schools on and/or near American Indian reservations and those schools serving a large percentage of Native American students. Emphasis is on scratch cooking including baking whole grain breads; increasing whole grains, fiber, fruits and vegetables; low fat cooking techniques; and promotion of USDA commodity foods. American Indian school cycle menus from Montana schools (that meet nutrition standards and satisfy cultural preferences) will be shared. There is limited space for this workshop; applicants are taken on a first come, first serve basis. This one-day workshop is being sponsored by a 2004

USDA Team Nutrition Training grant and is **free** to participants. This workshop will be repeated on the eastern side of the state in summer of 2006. Look for registration materials for both of these workshops in the mail in early May. A registration packet will be mailed to each School Food Authority foodservice manager. This packet will also be available on the School Nutrition Programs website at www.opi.state.mt.us/schoolfood/index.html. For more information: Montana Team Nutrition Program, Katie Bark, (406) 994-5641 or kbark@mt.gov

Statewide School Nutrition/Physical Activity Survey

Here is your chance to impact the training and technical assistance that will be available to schools through the Team Nutrition and School Nutrition Programs in the coming years. The Team Nutrition Program is conducting a survey of school administrators and food service managers to determine current school nutrition and physical activity status; measure changes in school policies and procedures resulting from previous training and technical assistance; and identify model schools for recognition and additional data collection. Surveys are being sent via mail and include a postage paid return envelope. Please return surveys by May 9, 2005. For more information on this survey: Montana Team Nutrition Programs, Katie Bark, 994-5641 kbark@mt.gov

HIV/AIDS/STD PROGRAM

HIV/AIDS/STD Prevention Education for Teachers – Summer Institute

The eighth annual summer training for teachers of HIV/AIDS/STD Prevention education will be held on June 13, 14 and 15 at the Helena Wingate Inn. The intensive 3-day workshop will provide information and teaching strategies designed to reduce the risk for unintended pregnancy and infection with STDs, including HIV. The first eight teachers to register will receive two nights lodging. All participants will receive a “*Reducing the Risk*” teacher’s guide; a curriculum recognized by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), to be effective in preventing unintended pregnancy and STDs. Registration deadline is May 13. To register contact Susan Court, OPI HIV/AIDS Education Specialist, at 406-444-3178 or scourt@mt.gov.

HIV/AIDS/STD Teacher Training

An HIV/AIDS Teacher Training is the perfect educational opportunity for fulfilling PIR day requirements. The one-day training offers information on educational and work site safety policy that is recommended knowledge for all K-12 educators, (most especially health enhancement and FACS), bus drivers, school food staff, custodians, playground aides, and other school staff. Renewal units good toward educator licensure are provided through this training. To arrange a FREE training at your school contact Susan Court, OPI, at 406-444-3178 or scourt@mt.gov

- August 19 – Flaxville School, TBA
- August 23 – Galata School, 8:30 – 2:00
- August 26 – Hobson School, TBA
- August 29 – Nashua School, 8:30 – 2:00

Teachers from surrounding school districts, may attend any teacher training by registering with Susan one week prior to each training. Check www.opi.mt.gov/HIVed for training updates.

DRIVER EDUCATION/ADVANCED DRIVER EDUCATION

Graduated Driver License—SB 104

Signed by Governor Schweitzer, this bill will not take effect until July 1, 2006. This bill will NOT change how schools deliver driver education. However, schools will want to consider when they start driver education classes for the summer of 2006, because driver education students who

are issued a permit BEFORE July 1, 2006 will not be affected by this law and students who are issued a permit on or AFTER July 1, 2006 will be affected.

The OPI and the DOJ are working together to identify issues that schools will want to know to answer parent questions. We are collecting questions from driver education teachers and administrators. A summary of questions and their answers will be made available to schools when it is completed. The Graduated Driver License bill falls under the jurisdiction of the Department of Justice (DOJ). Phone questions should be directed to the DOJ at (406) 444-1772, or you may email David Huff your questions at dhuff@mt.gov and he will forward them on to DOJ.

Traffic Education Program Applications, Year-End Reports and Program Reimbursements

Information to submit program applications for school year 2005-2006 and summer 2006 are being mailed in May. Information for reporting on traffic education programs delivered in school year 2004-2005 is included. Please turn in TE03 and TE04 Student Lists and Signature pages at the completion of each class. Reimbursements are generated from the TE04 student lists and distributed to schools in August for programs completed the previous school year.

Advanced Driver Education—Montana D.R.I.V.E.

This specialized training can count toward the 10 hours of required in-service training for school bus drivers. Workshops are designed to provide skills to handle critical driving situations in a variety of vehicles, including school buses. Workshops are filling quickly. Call (406) 444-4432 or visit www.montanadrive.mt.gov to request reservations.

OTHER EDUCATION NEWS

Northwest Regional Advisory Committee Report

The final report for the Northwest Regional Advisory Committee was delivered to the U.S. Department of Education on March 31, 2005 and has been posted on the website. Comments regarding this report should be sent directly to the U.S. Department of Education. It can be found in the RAC's Resource Library or you can click on the following link: <http://www.rac-ed.org/Default.aspx?tabid=343&mid=934&ctl=EntryDetails&EntryId=946>. Please contact the RAC Support Office at RAC@cna.org if you experience difficulties downloading this report.

Opportunities for Education-Cultural-Government Exchanges between Montana and Japan

This summer will mark the 23rd year of the Montana-Kumamoto sister-state relationship which has featured a great number of educational, cultural, and governmental exchanges between the people of Montana and Kumamoto, Japan. Kiyomichi Nagata is the new manager of Kumamoto Plaza. He and his wife and three young daughters will be in Montana for the next two years and can share their various talents in the Japanese arts through outreach programs in Montana schools. School groups are invited to visit the Kumamoto Plaza, located on the Helena walking mall, during their next visit to the capital city, to meet Mr. Nagata and to view the many exhibits on display.

The Kumamoto Plaza is also seeking host families for as many as forty Kumamoto high school students, one or two to a home, and two teacher chaperones who will be visiting communities in Montana from July 26th through the 31st. This short term experience has been very successful and Montana families have enjoyed their Japanese visitors during previous years.

For details and application materials for interested families in your school districts, please contact Tom Stearns at kpmont11@mt.net or staff at (406) 449-7904, or Ron Lukenbill at OPI 406-444-2080 or rlukenbill@mt.gov

Congressional Art Competition Reminder

There is still time for students to submit an entry to An Artistic Discovery. House Members have held locally judged competitions within their districts. The winning piece of art from each Congressional district is displayed in the Cannon Tunnel, a pedestrian walkway leading to the United States Capitol, for one year. This walkway is frequented by Members of Congress, staff and the general public as they enter the Capitol Building and thus provides an opportunity for thousands to enjoy the artistic talents of young artists from every Congressional district. The artwork will be on display for one year and will then be returned to the student.

Please refer to the contest rules at

<http://www.opi.state.mt.us/pdf/superintendent/CongArtContst.pdf> for further details about the competition. The first place entry winner will receive two complimentary airfare tickets and lodging so that he or she may attend the unveiling ceremony here in Washington D.C. The artwork should be mailed to: Congressman Denny Rehberg

1201 Grand Avenue, Suite 1
Billings, MT 59102

The deadline for receiving an original entry is May 13, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. Contact: Ruth Bond at 1-888-232-2626 or (406)256-1019.

Montana Teen Dating Violence Prevention Summit

Dating violence is a problem in Montana and nationwide. That is why the Helena School District is sponsoring a Montana Teen Dating Violence Prevention Summit July 27-29, 2005 at Carroll College in Helena. Other partners include the Montana Board of Crime Control, US Department of Health and Human Services, Carroll College, Montana Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence, the Friendship Center, Word, Inc, Attorney Mike McGrath and Superintendent Linda McCulloch, along with many partners including the Montana Board of Crime Control, Carroll College, Montana Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence, the Friendship Center, Word, Inc, Attorney Mike McGrath and Superintendent Linda McCulloch. The plan is to provide the summit at no cost to schools, except for transportation to attend. The summit's target audience is teens and advisors. Teens who join us this summer will gain the following:

They will participate in train-the-trainers classes, and take away valuable peer educator materials to share, with the support of their sponsors, in their own schools and communities.

Teens will be trained in the following areas: Sexual Harassment ; Dating Violence

Acquaintance Rape; Club/date Rape Drugs and Bystander Awareness.

For more information contact: Kelley Morand at Capital High School, Link Crew Peer Mentoring 406.324.2529 or kmorand@helena.k12.mt.us.

Veterans of Foreign War – Youth Development Opportunities

Every year, hundreds of thousands of students participate in the Voice of Democracy Scholarship <http://www.vfw.org/index.cfm?fa=cmt.y.level&did=150> and the Patriot's Pen Essay Contest, <http://www.vfw.org/index.cfm?fa=cmt.y.level&did=151> garnering more than \$3.4 million in scholarships and incentives. In 2004, a new scholarship program --the VFW Veterans Tribute Scholarship <http://www.vfw.org/index.cfm?fa=cmt.y.level&did=1589> - was established for children and grandchildren of all veterans and active-duty military personnel. In addition to VFW's outstanding scholarship programs, Posts and Auxiliaries across the nation work with youth in scouting, sports, ROTC and military cadet programs. By providing leaders, funding, sponsorships and other resources, the VFW and its Auxiliaries encourage millions of America's young adults to higher ideals and greater personal achievement. A

Montana Student from Billings West won the national 2004 Voice of Democracy contest sponsored by the VFW and received a \$25,000 scholarship.

<http://www.vfw.org/index.cfm?fa=cmtylevel&eid=2395>

OPI Legislative Overview

The following provides a brief description of key legislation and appropriations related to school funding. The Office of Public Instruction, along with its education partners, is preparing a *Summary of Legislation Related to K-12 Education* for the 2005 legislative session. The publication will be available in mid-June.

▪ K-12 BASE Aid

HB63 – Rep. Dan Villa increases state aid to schools by \$65.7 million for the biennium. It raises the elementary per student funding by \$250 and \$100 for each high school student. This is a 7.8% increase over prior year state spending. For the first time these increases were above the rate of inflation by 1% for each year.

HB63 allows for three year averaging of enrollment numbers to cushion the impact of declining enrollment. **HB63** also allows school districts to permissively levy up to the same amount of over-BASE property tax revenue levied in the prior fiscal year. This provision benefits districts that adopt a budget which is in excess of the maximum general fund budget. The provision does not increase a district's budget limit, but it does allow a district to levy without a vote the same amount of over-BASE property taxes as in the prior school year.

▪ Special Education

HB2 included a \$6.6 million increase in state funding to cover costs of educating students with special needs. This increase is inflation plus a 3.5%.

▪ Facility Bond Reimbursements

HB2 doubled the annual increase for school facility bond reimbursements. A total of \$4.1 million additional money will be available for the next biennium. Previous Legislature has increased the reimbursement by about \$1 million/ year.

▪ Career and Technical Education

Career and technical education funding was increased by \$570,000 for the biennium. The current program is funded at \$715,000/year.

▪ Gifted and Talented Grant Program

State grants for local gifted and talented programs were increased by \$200,000 for the biennium. The program currently distributes \$150,000/year.

▪ Indian Education for All

A major Court finding on the school funding lawsuit was the state of Montana has not met its constitutional responsibility to recognize the distinct and unique cultural heritage of American Indians and the commitment to develop educational goals for the preservation of that cultural integrity.

After passing the Indian Education Act in 1999, the Legislature continued to deny any state funding for the implementation of the act.

HB2 for the first time provides a total \$4.5 million for Indian Education for All. It includes:

1. \$2.3 million to Office of Public Instruction for the development of Indian Education for all curriculum, materials, and teacher professional development;
2. \$1.1 million for grants for up to 50 school districts to demonstrate best practice,
3. \$1.1 million to Montana's seven tribal colleges to develop tribal histories for all Montana tribes to integrate into curriculum.

Information regarding the application process for the grants to school districts will be available by August 2005. If you have ideas for projects for Indian Education for All Montanans, we hope you will consider applying for funding.

▪ **School Funding Law Suit**

In order to address findings of the school funding lawsuit the Legislature developed a definition to establish a basic system of free quality schools with the passage of **SB152- Sen. Don Ryan**. **SB152** sets forth educational goals for our students, defines the “educationally relevant factors” necessary for providing that quality education, and identifies key issues that need to be addressed in the new school funding formula.

The Joint Committee on School Funding has laid the groundwork for developing the new school funding formula. **SB525 – Sen. Jon Tester** establishes an interim legislative committee to research and develop the new funding formula for the anticipated December 2005 Special Session. The interim committee members are Senators Jon Tester, Don Ryan, Bob Story, and Dave Lewis and Representatives Holly Raser, Monica Lindeen, Bill Glaser, and Pat Wagman. In addition the three, non-voting ex-officio members of the committee include State Superintendent Linda McCulloch, Board of Public Education Chair Kirk Miller, and David Ewer, Governor’s Budget Director. **SB525** includes a \$200,000 appropriation to cover costs of the committees and further research costs in developing the new funding formula.

And Don’t Forget About More News on OPI webpage ...

Education News - from the OPI Homepage, click on the Ed News tab at the top right. Education News is for any information that might be of interest to the Education community in Montana.

Scholarships/Grants - from the OPI Homepage, click on the Ed News tab then on the Scholarships/Grants icon on the top left. This area is for any scholarships or grants that might be of interest to teachers or students in Montana.

Summer Opportunities for Kids – from the OPI Homepage, click on the Ed News tab then on the Summer Opportunities for Kids icon. Summer Opportunities would include summer courses, educational camps, etc.